(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. However, while setting up a refinery at the well head would reduce the cost of transportation of crude to the refinery, there are a numer of related infrastructure and logistics issues that have to be considered in determining the efficacy of such a proposal.

(b) to (d) The Refineries sector has been delicensed since June, 1998 and a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but public and private sector enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries. Public Sector Undertakings may consider setting up a refinery in accordance with the decision-making authority delegated to them by Government vide Department of Public Enterprises' Office Memorandum No. DPE/11(2)/97-Fin dated 22-7-1997.

Ban on export of kerosene oil and ATF

†3503. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation and other oil producing companies have demanded imposition of ban on export of kerosene oil and ATF;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to revise its export policy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) With a view to ensuring that the country's demand for kerosene for the Public Distribution System is met from indigenous production, IOCL have requested Government to consider imposing restrictions on the export of Kerosene and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Recommendations of Agarwal Committee

3504. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of irregularity in the allotment of petrol pumps and a Committee headed by S.C. Agarwal was constituted to inspect such irregularities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.